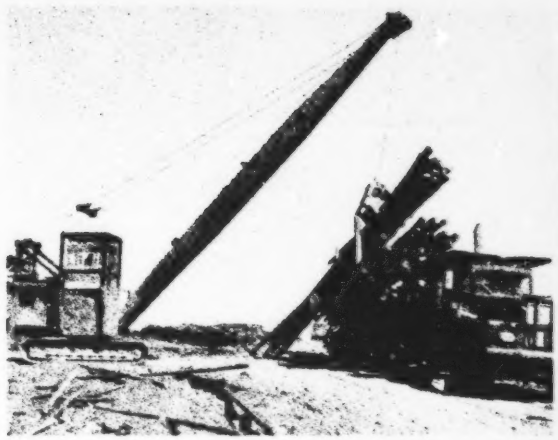

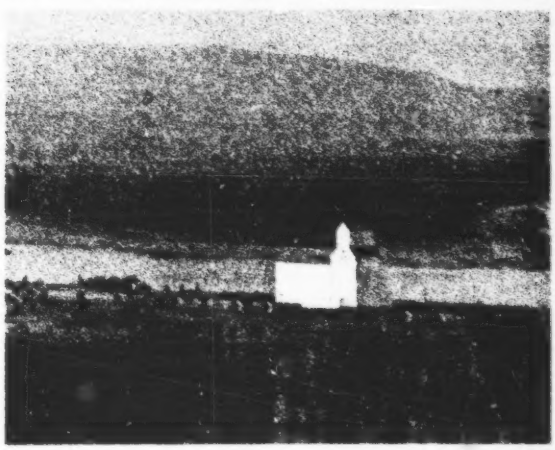

ANNUAL REPORT
1984/85

Alberta
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

85-5356/

LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL

Alberta
TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS

Office of the Minister

Room 104 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-3162

To Her Honor
Helen Hunley
Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of Alberta

Madam:

The undersigned has the honor to transmit herewith, the Twenty-first Annual Report of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Allen "Boomer" Adair
MLA, Peace River
Minister Responsible for the
Northern Alberta Development Council

Alberta

NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2nd Floor, Provincial Building, 9621 - 96 Avenue, Postal Bag 900-14, Peace River, Alberta, Canada T8H 2X1 (403) 624-6274

Hon. J.A. "Boomer" Adair
Minister Responsible for the
Northern Alberta Development Council

Sir:

The undersigned has the honor to transmit herewith, the Twenty-first Annual Report of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm A. Weiss, MLA
Lac La Biche/McMurray
Chairman

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STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Norm Weiss, M L A
Chairman,
Northern Alberta Development Council

During the year under review, the Northern Alberta Development Council was proceeding apace with its priority concentration on economic development issues important to the residents of northern Alberta. At its major progress review meeting two years ago, the Council chose a number of economic development areas for detailed review and discussion. A major research project and Council position paper, "Development of New Agricultural Land in Northwestern Alberta", dealt with the first topic in the fall of 1983.

In 1984/85, three other initiatives of importance have been completed. In September, 1984, the Council presented a detailed brief to the government hearings on "An Industrial and Science Strategy for Albertans, 1985-90". In December, industry, government and community representatives met in Peace River for the Tourism North Conference. The Conference's theme involved a community and private sector approach to tourism development in the North. Thirdly, the Council convened a workshop on "Employment Alternatives for Small Remote Communities" in High Prairie in January of 1985.

During the year the Council also set in motion three other priority economic development activities. Work has proceeded on a major economic opportunity review involving 10 regional workshops and plans are being finalized for a Hardwood Utilization Seminar. The Hardwood Seminar will examine a major strategy review conducted by a Council sponsored industry/government steering committee. Finally, initial preparations have commenced for a major northern economic development conference to be held next fall in Fort McMurray.

Other important topics addressed by the Council in this fiscal year involved a "Fire Prevention Model for Northern Alberta" and a repeat of the very successful Medical Recruitment Interchanges. A large amount of time was also spent preparing submissions with regard to the detailed reviews of the School Act and the secondary program of studies.

The Council's public meetings in 1984/85 were held in Fairview, Cold Lake, Chipewyan Lake, Zama Lake, Hythe and Faust, resulting in follow-up to 188 briefs. Numerous activities were also undertaken in concert with local citizens in various community and economic development projects.

Four new members were selected from the fall public nomination process for appointment to the Council. They join us in looking forward to continued success as a public participation body on behalf of the citizens of northern Alberta.

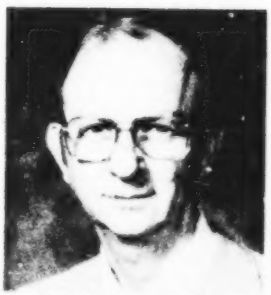
NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL 1984/85

NORM WEISS, MLA
CHAIRMAN
FT. McMURRAY

AL "BOOMER" ADAIR, MLA
PEACE RIVER
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

DICK UPHAM
VICE-CHAIRMAN
ASHMONT

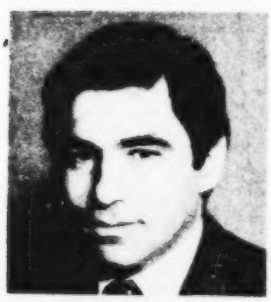


BOB ELLIOTT, MLA
BEAVERLODGE

VERNA BLOCK
SPIRIT RIVER

ERNEST HOWSE
CASLAN

JOANNE MITCHELL
HIGH LEVEL

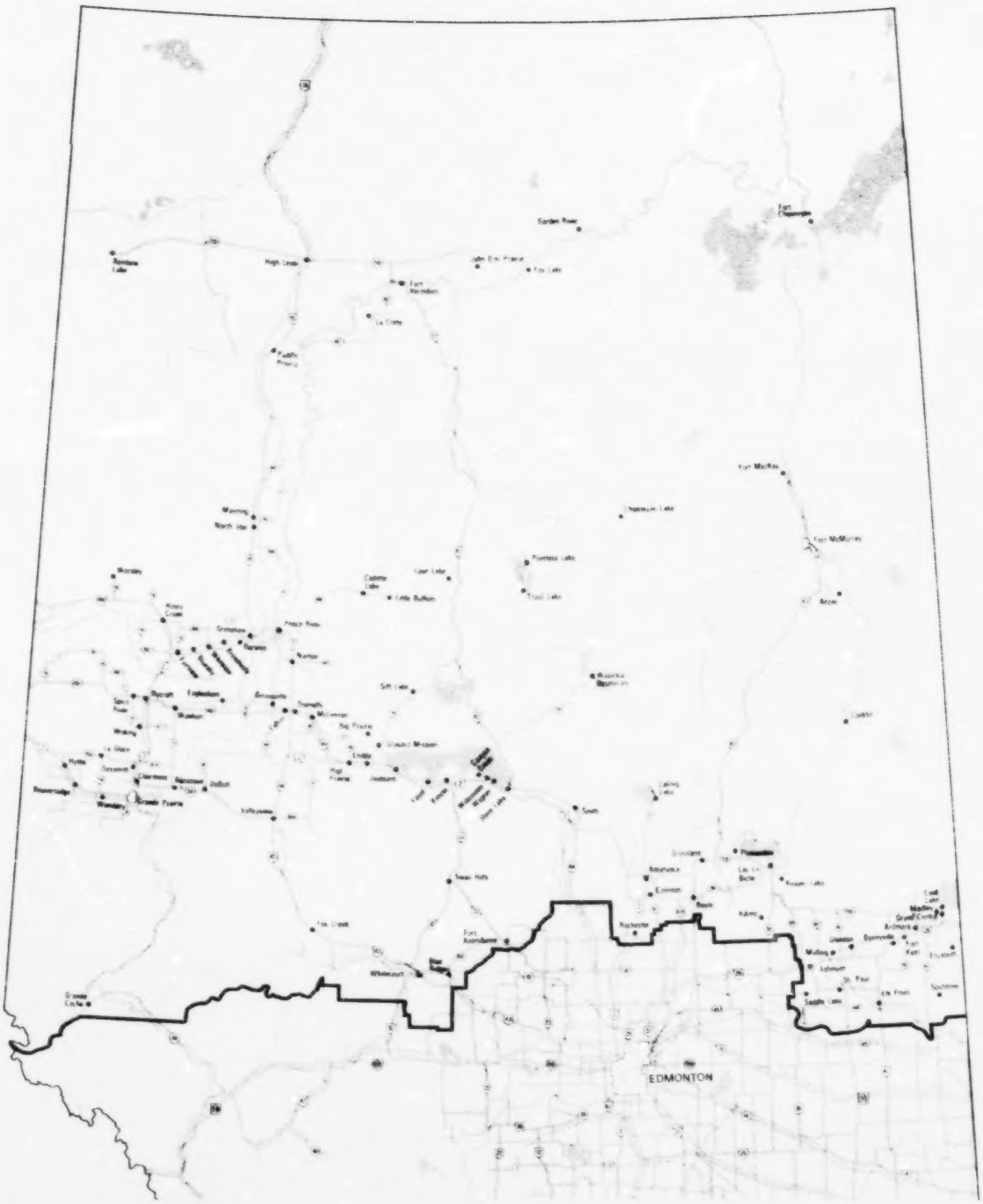


JOE MOLHO
SWAN HILLS

RODNEY TODD
COLD LAKE

CEC JARDINE
VALLEYVIEW

VINCE RICE
KINUSO



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREA

COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATION OVER 75 (1981 CANADA CENSUS)

PRIMARY HIGHWAY

SECONDARY ROAD

RAILWAY

PRODUCED BY THE ALBERTA BUREAU OF SURVEYING AND MAPPING © 1982

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The Northern Alberta Development Council was initially created in 1963 as a five member advisory body to the provincial government. It was enlarged in 1973 to a membership of 10, and currently consists of eight private citizens appointed on the basis of public nominations, and two elected Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Through its own Act, the Northern Alberta Development Council is charged with the responsibility to "investigate, monitor, evaluate, plan and promote practical measures to foster and advance general development in northern Alberta, and to advise the government thereon." The Act makes specific reference to social and economic development, the development of communities and service delivery, and the development of government services and programs.

The Council, at present, has a full-time MLA Chairman and reports to the Executive Council through the Minister of Tourism and Small Business, responsible for Northern Development.

The Council's primary role is to provide government with a northern point of view on a wide range of issues, supplementing and complementing the perspectives of northern MLAs. A major objective of Council since 1973 has been to increase the amount of public participation in the planning and design of delivery systems for various government services in northern Alberta.

The general purposes that Council wishes to promote are:

- to enhance economic and educational opportunities within northern Alberta in order to encourage young people to stay;
- to enhance the viability of traditional northern small town and rural life;
- to support the desires and aspirations of all residents in northern Alberta for a fair share in the wealth and potential of the area;
- to support the desires of various cultural and ethnic groups within northern Alberta for maintenance of their distinctive heritage.

Through regularly scheduled public meetings and sponsorship of major conferences and seminars, the Council serves as a forum to which residents can express their ideas and concerns regarding development of the North. In addition to receiving

briefs at public meetings, the Council can initiate research into particular opportunities or needs, and often pursues, on behalf of northern residents, efforts toward the development of new programs or co-ordination of the existing service delivery.

The information service provided through the response to briefs received from the public results in the initiation of most Council activities. Nearly 60 per cent of the briefs presented to the Northern Alberta Development Council since 1973 have resulted in positive responses.

Issues considered by the Northern Alberta Development Council during the year under review were many, including forestry, agriculture, hydro proposals, business development, trapping, game ranching, oil and gas, tourism, fire protection, education, infrastructure systems, health services, medical recruitment and local government concerns.

In September of 1984, the Council presented a detailed response to the Provincial Government's White paper on "An Industrial and Science Strategy for Albertans: 1985-1990". October saw the official release of a Fire Prevention Model for Northern Alberta and in November the Council repeated its very successful Medical Recruitment Interchanges in Calgary and Edmonton. The Tourism North Conference was held in Peace River in December, attracting over 170 northerners to discuss tourism's role in the northern economy. Another economically-related event was the Council-sponsored Workshop on Employment Alternatives for Small Remote Communities held in High Prairie in January of 1985. In Fort McMurray in March, the Council presented a major paper to the Policy Advisory Committee for the School Act Review.

The Northern Alberta Development Council serves as a facilitator and catalyst, assisting the line departments of government responsible for the implementation of changes and service improvements. The Council's public participation role over the years has provided an enhanced two-way flow of information, resulting in marked improvements for all northern Albertans.

NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC MEETINGS

During 1984/85, the Northern Alberta Development Council held six public meetings: at Fairview in April, Cold Lake in June, Chipewyan Lake in August, Zama Lake in October, Hythe in January and Faust in February. Three other regular monthly meetings were held in Peace River (2), and Edmonton, along with a conference, two workshops, a trip to Fort Smith, NWT, and a number of special activities.

One Hundred and eighty-eight briefs were received from groups and individuals in attendance at the public meetings. Each brief submitted was reviewed by the Council to determine a course of action and forwarded to various departments and agencies of government for consideration and comment. The departmental responses were then discussed by the Council, and a decision made as to whether or not the department's position and/or proposed action was appropriate. If the departmental response was felt to be inappropriate, the Council directed the Northern Development Branch to further clarify the issue through Branch-directed research, or to undertake discussions with the responsible officials in order to achieve the necessary action. At times, co-ordination of the efforts of a number of departments of government was required. Brief originators were advised of the progress made on each of the ideas or concerns expressed in their submissions.

The results achieved by the Council varied greatly from brief to brief. In several instances the concerns raised were either totally or partially resolved. In some cases, the Council and Branch are continuing to work toward a practical solution which is acceptable to all involved. The current status of any of the briefs submitted to Council is available from the Northern Development Branch in Peace River.

BRIEFS

During the year six briefs were received from Chard, Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray in the northeast region; 52 from Wabasca, Desmarais, Faust, Gift Lake, Grouard, High Prairie, Joussard, Kinuso, Slave Lake, Sandy Lake, Enilda, Red Earth Creek, Chipewyan Lake and Whitecourt in the central region; 32 from Athabasca, Bonnyville, Caslan, Cold Lake, Elk Point, Medley, Sputinow, Grand Centre, Lac La Biche, Ashmont, and St. Paul in the southeast region; 41 from Berwyn, Fairview, High Level, La Crete, Manning, Worsley, Hines Creek, Grimshaw, Keg River, Zama Lake, Fort Vermilion, Rainbow Lake and Peace River in the northwest region; 46 from Beaverlodge, Grande Prairie, McLennan, Sexsmith, Valleyview, Tangent, Rycroft, Valhalla Centre, Hythe, La Glace and Wembley in the southwest region; and 11 from Edmonton and other points outside the Northern Alberta Development Council boundary.

RESEARCH AND CO-ORDINATION

Many of the issues brought to the attention of the Northern Alberta Development Council required intensive background work and follow-up activities. As a result, the Council initiated a number of research projects and efforts directed at co-ordination or modification of the delivery of government services in various areas.

Major Council activities in 1984/85 included:

- follow-up to the Early School Leavers Report in the form of local awareness workshops in Keg River, Wabasca, Atikameg, Gift Lake, Fort Vermilion, Lac La Biche, Fort McMurray and Bonnyville

- intergovernmental visits by the Chairman to the Northwest Territories, Yukon and various federal agencies in Ottawa

- a meeting with the Minister of Transportation to review northern transportation priorities

- a review of the Northern Supplementary Fund for Water and Sewer initiated by the Council in 1976

- a meeting with the President and Board of ACCESS with regard to programming services in northern Alberta

- a meeting with the Chairman and Board representatives of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation to review past and current policies

- an information exchange meeting with the Advisory Committee on Heavy Oil and Oil Sands Development

- preparation of review papers on Residential Land Banking in Northern Alberta and Local Purchasing by Government

- a meeting with the Director of Geriatric Services to outline Council's reaction to the Long Term Care Assessment Model

- a review meeting with the Minister Responsible for Native Affairs concerning a number of briefs and common concerns

- an information exchange meeting with the Chairman and members of the Mackenzie Regional Planning Commission

- an extensive tour of the proposed Slave River Hydro dam site and detailed discussion meetings with the Town Council and various community organizations in Fort Smith, NWT

- an intergovernmental meeting with federal, territorial and provincial elected officials regarding the extension of Highway #58 through Wood Buffalo National Park

- a meeting with the Trappers Compensation Board regarding various concerns brought forward in briefs

- a discussion with the Fish & Wildlife Division regarding game ranching in northern Alberta and other related topics

- a meeting with the Deputy Minister and officials of Advanced Education regarding early school leavers and CVCs

- co-ordination of an oil company/local community employment seminar for the Red Earth area

- a major review of the operation of the NADC Student Bursary Program resulting in a detailed report to the Minister of Advanced Education

- release of the summary report on the Canada/Alberta North Agreement, 1978-83

- a preliminary review and update on cumulative impact in the Cold Lake oil sands region

- support for community assessment projects in Valleyview, Beaverlodge, Elk Point, Wabasca and Lac La Biche

- organizational support for the Rural Health Care Conference October 17-19, 1984

- sponsorship of a December 12, 1984, game ranching information workshop in Peace River with Alberta Institute of Agrologists

- a detailed discussion meeting with the Chairman of the Committee on Tolerance and Understanding

- support for a major senior citizens' research project in the northwest region and economic indicator surveys at Nampa and Elizabeth Settlement

- support for the Fort McMurray St. John's Ambulance facility, Fox Lake turbine, Lakeland Tourist Association and Wabasca Day Care community projects

- expansion of the Northern Research Registry to municipal and private sector contacts

- ongoing work on an extensive regional/sectoral review of northern economic development opportunities

- initiation of a three-year travel allowance program to attract medical students to the North for their elective courses

- a major address by the Chairman to the Alberta Hospitals Association Convention regarding northern health needs and medical recruitment

- submission of a brief to the Universities of Alberta and Calgary regarding rural medical curriculum needs

- completion of major background analysis and co-ordination activities involving Clear Hills iron ore, trappers' compensation, aspen utilization, Fort Chipewyan granite, vocational training, health service needs and remote community economic development

- input to a number of interdepartmental committees in such areas as transportation, water and sewer delivery, native employment programming, resource development, housing, tourism, agricultural research, local government and infrastructure provision in northern communities

INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENCE STRATEGY FOR ALBERTANS

As a result of the Provincial Government's release of its important White Paper in July of 1984, the Northern Alberta Development Council began to prepare an official response. After extensive discussion and review of the implications of the proposed strategy for northern Alberta, the Council summarized its views in a major brief presented on September 27, 1984, at the regional hearing in Peace River.

The Council's prepared document stated what were felt to be the views of northerners on the various initiatives outlined in the strategy paper. The brief summarized various positions the Council has taken in the past based on 1300 briefs received at 68 public meetings held across the North since 1973.

In the introductory section of the brief, various principles from the 1977 Economic Development in Northern Alberta position paper regarding balanced growth were outlined, and recommendations from other Council documents were highlighted. Also, target groups in the agriculture north, the resource north and the remote north were identified in relation to proposals in the strategy paper. It was noted, in particular, that remote community economic development concerns were not adequately addressed. In the economic overview section of the brief, the Council reiterated the vital importance of agriculture and the oil and gas sector to the northern economy, but called for more attention to forestry and tourism development. The importance of potential hydro development in northern Alberta and northerners' concern with regard to possible interbasin water transfer were also noted.

Reacting to the basic objectives and strategies outlined in the White Paper, the Northern Alberta Development Council emphasized its support for a strong private sector orientation, and for the importance of economic diversification and balanced growth as it applies to the North. In this context, the Council pointed out that, despite substantial progress, there were a number of areas in which northern Albertans were still behind their neighbors in the south: higher living costs and input prices, over-reliance on resource extraction, and a continuing need for employment training and attraction of professional manpower. Important priorities outlined by the Council included more local purchasing in the North; enhanced research and development assistance in areas such as food processing, oil sands development, hardwood utilization, micro-electronics and regional tourism development; and continued emphasis on transportation and communications networks.

The various strategy paper policy options received detailed comment with importance accorded to such things as new opportunities for technology development, local processing and scientific innovations. A somewhat more active government role through tax incentives and, in some cases, up-front financing was advocated. Two primary areas for government activity as seen by the Council would be in research and development, and education and training.

Specific initiatives relevant to northern Alberta were noted in the brief's summary statement. Under agriculture, expansion of regional grain handling facilities, assistance in meat packing and food processing and enhanced drainage and erosion programs were called for. Continued stimulation of oil sands development and

additional forestry projects, along with an emphasis on small business assistance and the need for enhanced tourism promotion were outlined. Development of a major destination area in the Lakeland was advocated. The ongoing role of government in the provision of necessary infrastructure and an outline of other continuing needs in the North concluded the Council's paper.

A copy of the Council's brief is available from the Northern Development Branch in Peace River.

FIRE PREVENTION MODEL FOR NORTHERN ALBERTA

On October 29, 1984, the Northern Alberta Development Council announced implementation of a Fire Prevention Model for Northern Alberta at a presentation meeting attended by a number of participating public and private sector agencies.

The model was developed in response to a report prepared for the Council and the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association which indicated that not only were the impacts of fire significantly greater in northern Alberta than in other parts of the province but, also, that the death rate for remote northern areas was far higher than in southern areas. The model focuses on a community awareness program and an educational curriculum project for grades 1, 2 and 3.

In attendance at the meeting for the presentation of the completed model and curriculum project were representatives of all of the project participants, the NADC, the Fire Chiefs Association, the Association of MDs and Counties, the Urban Municipalities Association, Northland School Division, Alberta Government Telephones and a number of government departments. Also in attendance were Hon. Les Young, Minister of Labour, Hon. Al Adair, Minister of Tourism and Small Business, Hon. Ernie Isley, Minister of Manpower, the Provincial Fire Commissioner and the Deputy Minister of Education.

The fire prevention model will be implemented on a five-year pilot basis with the educational component being delivered through Northland School Division. The curriculum project uses a collection of local songs, poems, pictures and stories designed to give children a healthy respect for fire. On-site trial demonstrations of the program have been held in Jean D'Or Prairie, Cadotte Lake, Peerless Lake, Loon Lake, Grouard, Wabasca, Chipewyan Lake, Fort Chipewyan, Calling Lake, Sputinow, Anzac and Nose Creek.

The community element of the program is being implemented initially in Calling Lake and Wabasca/Desmarais under the auspices of a steering committee consisting

of Alberta Labour, Alberta Manpower, Alberta Municipal Affairs and the Northern Development Branch of Alberta Tourism and Small Business. On completion of the five-year pilot project, the program will be assessed as to its continuation and/or expansion.

In the view of the Northern Alberta Development Council the long-term effect of the model should be a lowered death rate in the remote communities of northern Alberta, coupled with a substantially decreased dollar loss in property and personal damage.

Copies of the model and curriculum material are available from the Northern Development Branch.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

Because of the success of the 1983 Northern Community/Medical Student Interchanges, the Council decided to repeat the activity in the fall of 1984. The November, 1983, Interchanges, resulted in the direct and/or indirect recruitment of 10 medical practitioners to northern Alberta. To aid in the continuing recruitment strategy, the Northern Alberta Development Council also decided to initiate in the current year a new Medical Electives Bursary Program.

The second Interchanges were held on November 26, 1984, in Calgary and November 27, 1984, in Edmonton. The objectives were to show that northern Alberta is an excellent place to live and work, and that modern medical facilities and resources are available to physicians. The Council re-issued its Prospectus on Opportunities for Medical Practitioners in Northern Alberta which outlines the North, its communities, the need for some 30 physicians and specialists, and a comparison of income and costs which shows a potential average higher gross return of some 20 per cent.

Northern communities accepted the Council's invitation to again attend the Interchanges, which focused on an evening social with community displays and promotional activities. Extensive background work by the Council and a wide invitation list resulted in 87 medical students, interns and residents attending the Calgary meeting, and 71 registering in Edmonton.

All of the 21 participating communities were very pleased with the results of the second Interchanges and once more came away with the names of prospective physicians interested in further discussions and community orientation visits. Since the Interchanges, Council has continued its follow-up work and contact with the

participating communities has shown a number of confirmed commitments resulting from the 1984 meetings.

In the feed-back session following the 1983 Interchanges, the Council and community delegates discussed a number of recruiting ideas worthy of further consideration. In preparation for the 1984 Interchanges the Council acted upon the suggestion for financial incentives to assist medical students to take course electives in northern Alberta communities. The Council designed a three-year program to provide travel bursaries to students who took their course practicums in northern Alberta. During 1984/85, 12 Medical Electives Bursaries were awarded to students travelling to High Level, Fort McMurray, Whitecourt, Slave Lake, Valleyview, Peace River and Grande Cache.

As a result of the 1984 feed-back session, the Council prepared a major submission to the university medical faculties in the province regarding medical training for rural practice. It was the view of many of the northern Interchange participants that new doctors were not receiving sufficient training in certain areas needed in a rural general practice. The extensive Council brief reviewed the situation and offered a number of suggestions including extra courses in such areas as emergency care, internal medicine, obstetrics, surgery and anaesthesiology. The Rural Physician Associate Program of the University of Minnesota was pointed out as a possible model.

Copies of the curriculum submission and application forms for the electives program are available from the Northern Development Branch.

TOURISM NORTH CONFERENCE

The Northern Alberta Development Council designated tourism as a major topic area for discussion in 1984/85. Council's efforts in examining the potential and opportunity in this important facet of the North's economy culminated in the Tourism North Conference, held December 5, 6 and 7, 1984, in Peace River. The Conference brought together some 170 delegates from the tourism industry, government and northern communities to examine a community approach to the further development of tourism in northern Alberta. Northern tourism development opportunities and constraints were examined through the use of keynote speakers, case studies, panel presentations and intense small group discussions.

The conference opened with an overview of tourism in Alberta by the Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair, Minister of Tourism & Small Business, and a review of tourism opportunities in northern Alberta by Travel Alberta staff. Delegates then assembled in

small groups to examine northern tourism prospects in terms of tourism planning, marketing and promotion, government assistance, improving what exists, and developing new opportunities. Addresses by Walter Urquhart, President of the Travel Industry Association of Alberta and Dwight Jensen of Time Air provided the participants with additional information and ideas. Case studies on how a community organizes, develops a theme concept, and develops a facility were followed by nine information workshops.

The workshops covered the topics of community organization and financing, hospitality, government programming, parks, museums, industrial/agricultural tourism, promotion, signage and operating a tourism business. A major address by Robert Rountree of Northern Light Photographics, Toronto, outlined communication and marketing in today's economy. Regional priority setting by the various TIAALTA zones, an open discussion period and concluding remarks closed the very successful conference.

As a result of the efforts of the delegates, the Northern Alberta Development Council prepared 19 recommendations for consideration by the provincial and federal governments, the northern tourist zones, the Travel Industry Association of Alberta and by northern communities and individuals. The recommendations are contained in the summary report entitled "Tourism North Conference Report" available from the Northern Development Branch.

The recommendations focus on the need for:

- greater awareness of the role tourism plays in the provincial and northern economy;
- increased promotional and marketing efforts which have particular reference to northern Alberta;
- greater technical assistance to northern communities and tourist zones in the development of local tourism strategies and priorities;
- the recognition and the commencement of the development of the Lakeland area as "Kananaskis 2" and the need for additional park facilities across the North;
- continued support for historical enhancement in northern Alberta; and

- greater hospitality awareness and campaigns to promote cleanliness and friendliness toward the travelling public.

The Council has followed up the Tourism North Conference with special joint promotional efforts and detailed liaison with various government and private sector agencies. For example, a special multi-color "Discover Alberta's North" poster is now available for wide distribution for the first time.

The Council feels the conference acted as a catalyst and an "awareness heightener" for government and for northern Alberta communities. The province has now launched major new efforts in tourism and many of the northern communities have begun to consider enhanced tourism strategies and future developments.

EMPLOYMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SMALL, REMOTE COMMUNITIES

During the year the Northern Alberta Development Council also intensified its efforts toward assisting small, remote communities in northern Alberta to develop and pursue employment and economic development opportunities.

Over the years, briefs at public meetings held by the Council in remote northern communities have described many problems associated with high levels of unemployment. Many of the briefs requested assistance in the areas of employment enhancement and general community economic development.

In late 1983 the Council produced a background document entitled "Employment Alternatives and Social Assistance in Smaller, Northern Alberta Communities". The report examined many employment and developmental concerns and reviewed various alternatives to the existing social assistance system. After examining the report in some detail, the Council decided to convene a workshop to review the various issues.

The workshop was held in High Prairie on January 11-12, 1985. Sixty-five delegates representing the smaller, remote northern communities met to discuss their experiences in pursuing employment and economic development. Among the communities represented were Peerless Lake, Conklin, Cadotte Lake, Calling Lake, Fort Chipewyan, Paddle Prairie, Canyon Creek, East Prairie, Caslan, Chipewyan Lake, Atikameg, Grouard and Elizabeth. Industry representatives included ESSO Resources, Cold Lake; Shell Canada, Peace River; and Syncrude Canada, Fort McMurray. Manpower, Advanced Education, Housing and Tourism & Small Business were the government departments in attendance.

Through a series of small group discussions and report-backs, delegates outlined their community strengths and weaknesses and explored ideas relating to economic development and employment generation. Private sector sources, government employment programs and training needs were major topics addressed. Spinoffs from oil and gas and forestry activities, as opposed to traditional economic lifestyles, received much debate. New opportunities in tourism development were noted by many. Education and the needs of the younger generation were a particular focus of discussion. Community infrastructure as the basis for sound economic enterprise were also emphasized by the delegates. The Northern Alberta Development Council was commended, in particular, for past efforts such as the Red Earth industry/oil company meeting and tourism development efforts in Peerless Lake and Fort Chipewyan. The Chairman of Northland School Division also pointed out the Council's efforts in the important study of Early School Leavers in Northern Alberta.

The workshop process provided delegates with information on a variety of community initiatives being undertaken in several different areas across northern Alberta. Discussions over the two days among community, business and government delegates led to a clearer sense of the unique ambitions of the remote communities in northern Alberta. Also, in the closing session delegates addressed specific community strategies for implementation over the next 12-24 months. A summary address by Elmer Ghostkeeper and remarks by George Kupfer also provided excellent food for thought.

The strong community input at the workshop will assist the Northern Alberta Development Council in developing ongoing recommendations to government regarding the employment and economic development concerns of northern Alberta's small remote communities. Printed copies of the workshop report are available from the Northern Development Branch.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

On March 12, 1985, the Northern Alberta Development Council presented its reaction to "Partners in Education: Principles for a New School Act" at the Fort McMurray meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee for the School Act Review. The brief was a culmination of a year-long series of activities by the Council on the topic of basic education in northern Alberta.

Six extensive activities were undertaken by the Council based on the Provincial government's initiatives regarding secondary programming and a revision of the School Act. The first activity involved numerous liaison and follow-up meetings with regard to the Early School Leavers in Northern Alberta report and workshops

completed by the Council in early 1984. Presentations were made to numerous groups including school boards, home and school associations, professional training institutes for teachers and provincial conventions. Joint implementation activities are also under way with Northland School Division and others.

A second major activity involved a detailed brief to the review committee on junior and senior high school curricula. The Council brief addressed many issues and provided comments on the current state of existing programs in many northern schools. Among topics important to the North were adaptation of curriculum to local culture, small high schools, vocational training, counselling, work experience, mobile education facilities and teacher specialist teams. In November of 1984 an intergovernmental meeting was held by the Council to examine the relationship between high school programming and Community Vocational Centres in the remote communities. This has resulted in some excellent co-operative follow-up activities.

January, 1985 in Hythe saw a detailed summary meeting with the Chairman of the Committee on Tolerance and Understanding. The meeting reviewed Council's input into the four Committee discussion papers on Private Schools, Native Education, Governance and Culturalism. The Committee Chairman thanked the Council for its submissions and support in terms of ongoing consultation and the organizing of an extensive field trip to the northern remote communities.

In March of 1985, the two final Council activities on education took place. A presentation was made to the Minister's Advisory Committee on Further Education in Fairview and the Chairman presented the Northern Alberta Development Council's detailed response to "Partners in Education" to the Policy Advisory Committee.

The Council paper provided a summary of all previous activities and addressed the issues raised in the provincial discussions document from a northern perspective. Apart from the major topics, the Council brief noted a need to use clearly understandable language in the new School Act, the importance of emphasizing the role of parents and the problem of recognizing the special needs of northern educational financing. A major omission with regard to teacher evaluation was also pointed out.

Copies of the various documents are available from the Northern Development Branch.

ANALYSIS OF BRIEFS

At the close of the fiscal year an in-depth analysis of briefs received by the Northern Alberta Development Council was undertaken covering the period April 1, 1973, to March 31, 1985. Over the 12-year period, 68 public meetings were held across the north and 1,298 briefs were submitted generating 1,797 separate issues. The volume of briefs received per year was fairly constant, with an average of 19 briefs per meeting. The following charts provide additional information of interest.

BRIEF ORIGINATORS

Community Groups	39%
Municipalities	28%
Agencies	17%
Individuals	8%
Businesses	6%
Other	2%

BRIEFS BY REGION

Athabasca/Bonnyville	25%
Lesser Slave Lake	24%
Grande Prairie/Peace River	24%
High Level/Fort Vermilion	12%
Fort McMurray/Fort Chipewyan	7%
Grande Cache/Whitecourt	5%
Outside Boundary Area	3%

BRIEFS BY TOPIC AREA

Transportation	20%
Economic Development/Job Creation	14%
Local Government/Community Planning	11%
Tourism/Recreation & Parks	10%
Education	8%
Health Services	7%
Agriculture	6%
Utilities	5%
Social Services	5%
Water and Sewer	4%
Environment	4%
Housing	3%
Other	3%

BRIEF FOLLOW-UP

REFERENCE/CIRCULATION - information exchange and/or direct follow-up by the relevant government department	57%
RECOMMENDATION/SUPPORT - NADC policy advice to departments, ministers or cabinet	14%
RESEARCH/LIAISON - extensive NADC background investigation and/or liaison activities with interested parties	27%
FUNDING - arranging of budgetary adjustments or gap funding in special cases	2%

BRIEF STATUS

PAT	58%
UC	15%
R	27%

PAT -
Positive action taken which wholly or partially solved the concerns expressed.

UC -
Under consideration by government departments.

R -
Refusal or no action taken, due to program constraints or unreasonableness of request.

The initial response by the Northern Alberta Development Council to the briefs shortly after presentation showed 19% PAT, 58% UC and 23% R. Therefore, over time, many of the UC tended to move into the PAT category when government budget allocations and/or program priorities allowed, while the R tended to remain fairly constant.

Of the some 1,797 issues analyzed an average PAT of 58% was achieved over the 12-year period to March 31, 1985. Given the wide range and complexity of requests submitted by northern citizens, and the fact that some briefs are still under consideration, achieving positive results in nearly two thirds of the briefs referred to government departments or followed up directly by the Council is deemed very satisfactory by all concerned.

The analysis appears to indicate the Council's public participation role is definitely assisting in bringing a special emphasis to the particular concerns of northern Alberta.

STUDENT BURSARY PROGRAM

Created in 1974, the Northern Alberta Development Council Student Bursary Program is designed to encourage young people to obtain technical training or professional qualifications that are in high demand in northern areas of the province.

Students assisted through the program are obligated to work in northern Alberta, preferably in remote and isolated locations, for at least one year for each year of bursary support received.

The Bursary Program is administered by the Students Finance Board. A selection committee, made up of four members of the Northern Alberta Development Council and one representative each from the Metis Association of Alberta, the Students

Finance Board and Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower, is responsible for the establishment of guidelines and selection of candidates for bursary support.

On the basis of criteria including need, northern experience and special circumstances, the Selection Committee granted bursary assistance in 1984-85 to 1,761 applicants for a total of $592,000. The present bursary rates are up to $3,500 for single students and up to $6,000 per academic year for married students. Since the inception of the program, 1,419 bursaries have been awarded to students at a total expenditure of $4.3 million. Bursaries have been awarded in many areas including health care, education, social services, agriculture, law, business related studies and engineering. Most of the returning graduates have remained in the North to contribute to the growing and diverse economy of the region.

NEW COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

In late 1984, through public advertisements in all northern newspapers, nominations were solicited from northern community groups and organizations for nominees to replace retiring public members of the Council.

In March, 1985, the Provincial Cabinet, through the Minister responsible for Northern Development, the Hon. J. A. Adair, approved four new members to the Northern Alberta Development Council. The membership for 1985-86 includes:

Norm Weiss, M.L.A. Fort McMurray, Chairman
Joe Molho, Swan Hills, Vice-Chairman
Mary Bennett, Elk Point
Gene Desrosiers, High Level
Betty Dockett, Grand Centre
Bob Elliott, M.L.A. Beaverlodge
Ernie Howse, Caslan
Cec Jardine, Valleyview
Vince Rice, Kinuso
Ted Soontag, Hotchkiss

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

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The purpose of the Northern Development Branch of Alberta Tourism and Small Business is to participate in developing and maintaining a socio-economic environment in northern Alberta which gives maximum opportunity for the inhabitants of the area to grow and prosper.

In achieving its purpose, the Branch provides all the administrative and technical support activities required by the Northern Alberta Development Council, and attempts to implement a flexible strategy of achieving specific socio-economic improvements in northern Alberta.

The Branch seeks to advance the development of human and natural resources in northern Alberta, as well as aiding in community development goals such as local decision-making and planning. It delves into a wide variety of issues as a result of briefs received by the Northern Alberta Development Council, e.g., agriculture, resource development, manpower training, community infrastructure, education, communications services, housing and transportation.

The **Research and Analysis Section** of the Branch provides the review and planning function for northern Alberta socio-economic improvements. Basic research is performed and background and position papers prepared in support of the Council in its role as an advisory body to government. Examples of major projects undertaken by the section on behalf of the Council during the fiscal year included: review papers on transportation priorities, game ranching, trapping, long-term care, land banking, rural medical curriculum needs, agricultural financing, erosion control, health disciplines and industrial strategy; expansion of the Northern Research Registry; community assessment studies in Beaverlodge, Valleyview, Wabasca, Lac La Biche and Elk Point; an Inter-agency Handbook; and studies in the areas of aspen utilization, regional economic development opportunities, tourism, manpower requirements, northern inventory data and senior citizen accommodation.

The purpose of the **Program Co-ordination Section** is to facilitate and assist in the co-ordination of activities of various line departments and agencies to achieve maximum opportunities for socio-economic development in northern Alberta. Within this context, the Section had a major responsibility to follow up cash flow implementation of the 1978-83 Alberta North Subsidiary Agreement. Negotiations with the federal government for renewal of the Agreement are presently under way. In the area of northern co-ordination efforts on behalf of the Council, extensive staff time was spent on interdepartmental liaison activities involving water and sewer delivery, remote community economic development, local government services, transportation needs,

resource development plans, commercial trapping and fishing, electrification services, fire prevention, tourism development, social employment programs, vocational training, northern school divisions and planning for the Annual Conference of Northern Ministers.

The **Council Administration Section** provides technical and logistical support to the Chairman's office in Fort McMurray and to individual Council members for the monthly meetings. During 1984/85 six public meetings, three closed meetings, a conference, two workshops, a trip to Fort Smith, NWT, and a number of special activities were organized. Detailed follow-up to the Student Bursary Program and assistance in the public nomination process and appointment of four new Council members were also undertaken. One hundred and eighty-eight briefs were received by Council during the fiscal year, and background documentation, interdepartmental liaison activities and draft responses were undertaken in each case by the Section staff.

A significant amount of the Branch's time during the year under review was related to preparation and follow-up to the Community/Medical Student Interchanges held in Calgary and Edmonton, the Tourism North Conference, and the Workshop on Employment Alternatives in Small Remote Communities held in High Prairie.

Other major Branch follow-up activities arising from the briefs and/or Council-initiated requests involved: Valleyview social services, Peace Point Integrated Resource Plan, extension of Highway #58, Falher irrigation proposal, barge tariff on the Athabasca, Anzac and Keg River School Lunch Program, Lesser Slave Lake fish production, Cold Lake tourism, Lakeland Integrated Resource Plan, Bonnyville Native Friendship Centre, Fishing Lake agricultural development, Ashmont paving, Sturgeon Lake Integrated Resource Plan, CFB Cold Lake housing, whitetail doe season, Chipewyan Lake housing concerns, utilization of remote fishing lakes, Caslan road construction, impact of proposed Slave River Dam, I.D. 23 Licence of Occupation Roads, Zama Lake school, oil industry water usage in the Valhalla area, nursing beds in Grande Prairie region, road access to Tumbler Ridge, Grande Prairie Alcohol Treatment Centre, EFRC for Hythe, tourism training, air ambulance standards, Beaverlodge economic growth, rural medical incentive allowance, Fort Chipewyan land entitlement, Slave Lake Sunrise Project, Faust Vocational training, East Prairie school, Grouard economic development, regional air carrier services, Wabasca natural gas service, Fort McMurray Crisis Centre.

In its work as a co-ordinator and facilitator and, particularly, as a supplier of technical support to the Northern Alberta Development Council, the Branch continued to maintain a vital communications link between northern people and government.